

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to omit the indefinite recitation of an acute angle "that substantially deviates from a right angle". Claim 1, as amended now simply recites that the pivot axis of the mount and the handle forms an acute angle with a longitudinal direction of the handle, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection to claim 1.

In addition, claims 5 and 7 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the recitation of a common pivoting plane, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objections to claims 5, 6 and 7.

Still further, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the mount and the handle are adjustably connected by a screw connection to achieve desired clamping, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 6, lines 1-7.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and that the claims as amended are in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 USC 112. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered, and that the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,862,562 ("Erken"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As pointed out hereinabove, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the mount and the handle of the cleaning device of the present invention are adjustably connected by a screw connection to achieve desired clamping. As a result, pivoting between the handle and the mount ~~(and the squeegee retained in the mount)~~ can be adjusted to a desired level to achieve most effective cleaning.

As recognized by the Examiner, Erken discloses a wiping device having a similar structure to the cleaning device of the claimed present invention. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Erken does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural feature and advantageous effect of the present invention as recited in claim 1 whereby the mount and the handle are adjustably connected by a screw connection to achieve desired clamping so that pivoting between the handle and the mount (and the squeegee retained in the mount) can be adjusted to a desired level to achieve most effective cleaning.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cleaning device of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 and

each of claims 2-7 depending therefrom patentably distinguishes over Erken under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: PRIORITY CLAIM

Submitted herewith is another certified priority document (European Application No. 00124863.2), the priority of which is claimed under 35 USC 119. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified priority document to perfect the priority claim.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1, 5 and 7 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A cleaning device comprising:

a mount;

a squeegee that is made of an elastic material and that is retained in the mount;

a stemlike handle that is joined to the mount pivotably about a pivot axis that extends perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the squeegee;

wherein the pivot axis of the mount and the handle forms an acute angle with a longitudinal direction of the handle [that substantially deviates from a right angle], and

wherein the mount and the handle are adjustably connected by a screw connection to achieve desired clamping.

5. (Amended) The cleaning device of claim 1, wherein a location of the pivot axis of the mount and the handle is selected such that a geometric line of intersection of [the] a common pivoting plane of the mount and the handle with a surface to be cleaned is located relatively close to a bearing face of the squeegee on the surface to be cleaned.

7. (Amended) The cleaning device of claim 1, wherein a location of the pivot axis of the mount and the handle is selected such that a geometric line of intersection of [the] a common pivoting plane of the mount and the handle with a surface to be cleaned is located relatively far from a bearing face of the squeegee and upstream, in a pulling direction of the cleaning device, of the squeegee on the surface to be cleaned.